

Wicomico Feed and Flour Mill
CH-744
Wicomico
Private

Circa 1910

The Wicomico Feed and Flour Mill is one of two known mills to survive in Charles County and the only remaining roller mill extant. Erected during the first quarter of the 20th century by members of the Long family, the mill is a frame, side-gable 2-story structure with a one-story engine house attached to the rear, and enclosed porches extending from the front and side elevations. Near the mill stands the Wicomico one-room African-American Schoolhouse along with several structures related to grain storage and processing. A short distance from the site on an adjacent parcel is the house occupied by the miller, Samuel Long. The roller mill, used until the 1970's, is exceptionally well-preserved including the survival of much of the original milling equipment.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-744

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Wicomico Feed and Flour Mill

other

2. Location

street and number 12595 Olde Mill Road not for publication

city, town Wicomico vicinity

county Charles

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name James J. Long, Jr.

street and number 12595 Olde Mill Road telephone 301-934-4105

city, town Charlotte Hall state MD zip code 20622-3684

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 74 p. 40

city, town La Plata liber 1115 folio 237

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	2
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	5
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	7
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			buildings
			sites
			structures
			objects
			Total
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-744

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Wicomico Feed and Flour Mill is a 2-story frame structure facing north set back slightly on the south side of Olde Mill Road. The steam-powered roller mill includes much of its original machinery. Some time after its original construction, a shed was added to the north and west elevations. A cornhouse stands nearby along with several other outbuildings including an office, and two sheds. Modern grain silos also share the site.

The mill is a side-gable structure whose frame is supported by large poured concrete piers supporting the exterior walls and an assortment of supplemental log and concrete block piers supporting the interior. The original weatherboard siding has been partially re clad in metal sheathing which also covers the roof. Original weatherboard appears to be largely intact underneath but in poor condition. One-story sheds extend from the north and west elevations and a gable roof structure extends from a corner of the south elevation which originally housed the steam engine. All of the original windows are intact and include 6/6 wood sash.

The front elevation includes three symmetrically placed windows on the second floor. The first floor shed includes four bays: two windows to the east and a window and doorway to the west. An uncovered landing approached by four steps extends from the doorway eastward, probably serving as a loading platform. The east elevation includes three symmetrical windows on the second floor and two on the first. An additional window is found in the shed addition. The rear elevation has two windows on the second floor and on the first floor near the west wall. The shed addition also has a single window. The west wall includes a single centered window under the eaves and a single centered second story window. The shed addition includes two windows and a doorway. The engine house is covered in vertical board siding and a metal roof.

INTERIOR

Wooden shoots and conveyors and several large pieces of equipment are intact including what is likely a cleaner a patented piece of equipment identified as A. Charners Company, Milwaukee Wis USA Feb 6, 1894. Over time the mill was upgraded and some pieces of obsolete machinery were replaced with new equipment. The steam engine and some other machinery is also missing.

CORNHOUSE c. 1950

An early 20th century cornhouse stands nearby. It is built on a raised concrete block pier foundation with a combination of vertical board siding on the exterior and narrowly spaced slats on the interior. The structure has a metal roof with a east/west axis. Access is provided by a vertical plank door on the west wall.

SCHOOLHOUSE

This building presumably faced west when originally constructed, according to the placement of the entrance on the same wall. The front gable structure wood frame structure stands on a brick pier foundation. The roof is metal. Two windows, now gone, once flanked either eave elevation. A single window is found on the rear, or east elevation. The structure was originally heated by a stove attached to a single exterior brick flue on the south wall. The sill is constructed of circular sawn timbers and the siding is attached with cut nails. The ceiling and walls are paneled with matchstick tongue and groove planking.

A cornhouse and shed, both covered in vertical board siding stand side by side on the drive approaching mill. Both have rooflines running on a east west axis. To the south and east of these outbuildings are two non-contributing metal sheds used as an office. The miller's house stands on separate parcel next to the current mill site.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-744

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates	1907-1950	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	1907		

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Wicomico Flour and Feed Mill is one of two known mills to survive in Charles County and the only known roller mill to exist. Adding to the site's significance is the presence of a one room African-American schoolhouse just north of the mill site. The mill was erected in the first quarter of the 20th century by members of the Long family who continued to operate the site until the 1970's. The site derives its significance because of the architectural integrity of the principal structure and associated resources, including a turn of the century African-American schoolhouse, and the nearby miller's house on an adjacent parcel.

In 1920, Philip T. Long and Samuel C. Long purchased 20 acres consisting of a flour mill and the dwelling house now occupied by Samuel C. Long. The property had originally been associated with Sarum a large plantation in the vicinity. The 20 acres consisted of two parcels. The first lot, believed to be the site of the current mill, was acquired in 1902 by Philip T. Long and stood on or near an earlier mill owned by Fowler and Yates. In 1907 Long acquired fifteen acres adjoining the other lot in the village of Wicomico. Wicomico was a small but thriving hamlet during the first quarter of the 20th century and included at least one schoolhouse, two stores and a mill clustered around the main road leading from Newport to Budd's Ferry.

Roller mills replaced millstones as the principal means to process flour during the 19th century and represented an innovation in the quality and quantity of production. Roller mills were began to replace grindstones after 1881 when a large industry exhibition in London introduced the roller process. However, the roller mill process was not perfected until 1912 when new processing techniques for cleaning, reducing and bleaching flour were introduced. Conversion to a feed mill was a common strategy used by aging small rural mills to remain in operation. Often much of the original flour making machinery is left in place while feed mixers and other milling machinery are added. This might include hammer mills, attrition mills and molasses tanks.

The Wicomico Colored School is identified in a local publication of the Charles County Retired Teachers Association. According to Minnie Fields Hill in 1976, the building was : a small wooden building on the main highway... with two small rooms in the front and a large room in the back." A previous school is said to have been located at the back of the flour mill and to have been of log construction.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-744

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 2

Acreage of historical setting 20

Quadrangle name Charlotte Hall

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 74 Parcel 40.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Hardy/Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning

date 2/2/1975

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town La Plata

state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-744

Section 8 Page 1

Wicomico Flour and Feed Mill

name of property

Charles County, MD

county and state

Chain of Title:

March 23, 1990	Alice G. Long to James Judson Long, Jr. 1/3 interest in mill property. 20 acres. 526:072
February 23, 1977	James Judson Long, Sr. estate divided: 2/3 interest to James Judson Long Jr., 1/3 to Alice G. Long, widow. 507:64
February 2, 1965	Mary E. Long, widow to Judson and Alice G. Long 1 st - one acre of land (School Property) 2 nd - John Posey Farm. 256 acres 3rd- 20 acres 4 th - Middle Farm 173:392/173:389
Parcel 3	
June 14, 1961	Samuel C. Long to Samuel C. (d. 18 June 1964) and Mary E. Long. 20 acres. PCM 153/629; PCM 153/627
March 20, 1920	Philip T. Long to Samuel C. Long 20 acres consisting of a flour mill and the dwelling house now occupied by the said Samuel C. Long. 20 acres known as "Sarum" WMA 36/206
December 19, 1907	Adrian Posey, George F and Elizabeth Posey. release of judgement of \$350 paid by Philip T. Long. All that lot, part, parcel of land situated in the village of Wicomico. 15 acres adjacent to the Philip T. Long mill lot 18:564
June 2, 1902	Beginning at a stone planted on the south side of the public road leading from Fowler and Yates store to the store of Mrs. Lucy M. Long. Mentions colored schoolhouse plot and Fowler and Yates mill plot. 1 1/4 acres..part of "Sarum" obtained by will of Henry Mattingly. 13:156

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-744

Section 9 Page 1

Wicomico Flour and Feed Mill
name of property
Charles County, Maryland
county and state

Major Bibliographic References:

- Amos, Percy A. Process of Flour Manufacturing.
Longmans, Green and Co. New York. 1912. Internet reprint.
- Brown, Jack D., et al. Charles County, Maryland, A History.
Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.
- Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.
- Charles County Retired teachers Association, ed.. A Legacy of One and Two
Room Schools in Charles County.
- Klaphor, Margaret Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland.
LaPlata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

CH-744 Charles County, MD
Name: WICOMICO FLOUR & FEED MILL
Location: WICOMICO
Quad: CHARLOTTE HALL





CH-744

WILCOMICO FEED & FLOUR MILL

CHARLES CO. MD

C. HARDY

3/2002

MD SHPO

LOOKING SE, FRONT ELEVATION

1571



CH-744
WICOMICO FEED & FLOUR MILL
CHARLES CO. MD
C. HARDY
3/2002
MD SHPO
RENE ELEVATION
2016



CH-744

WICOMICO FEED & FLOUR MILL

CHARLES CO. MD

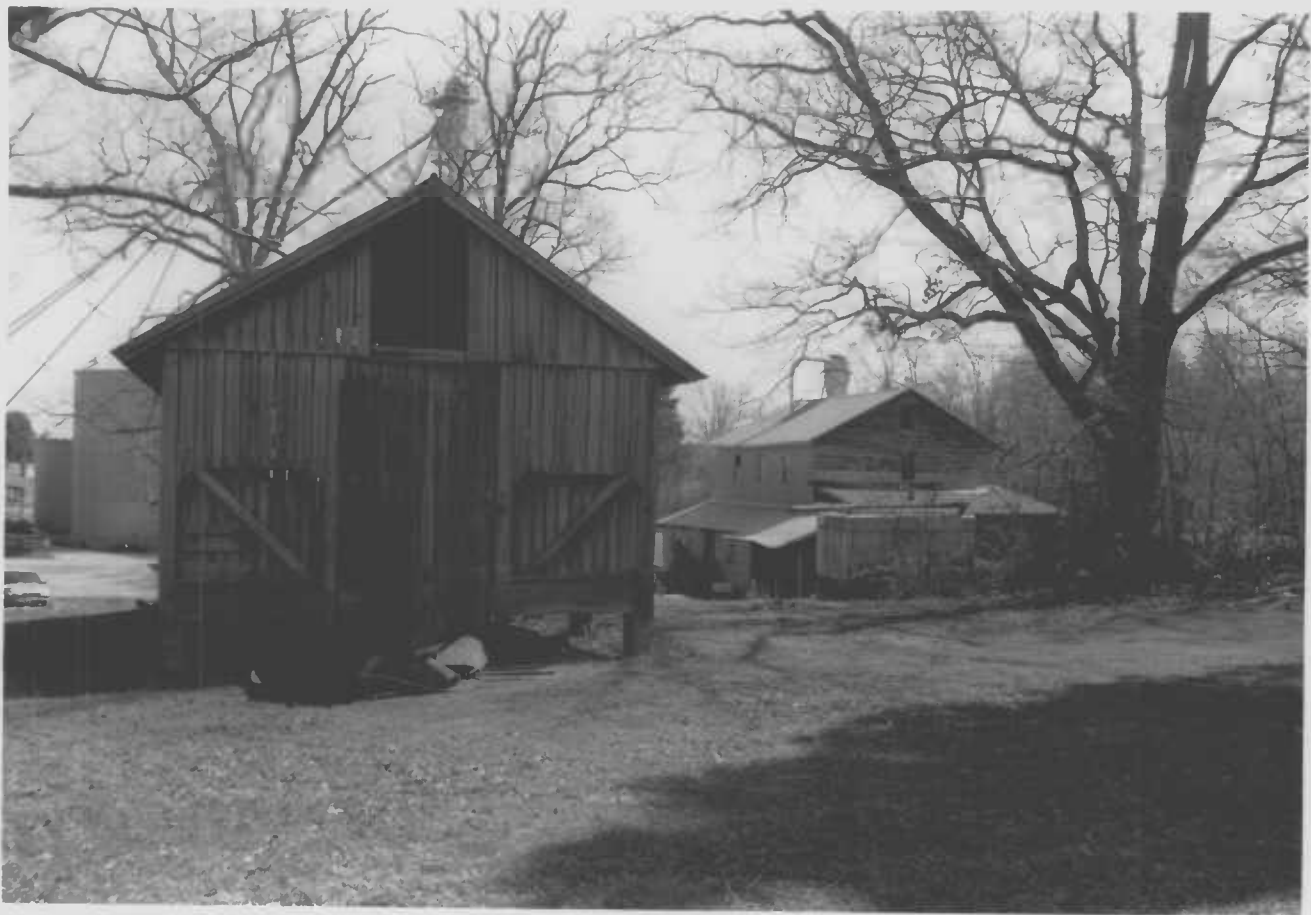
C. HARDY

3/2002

MD SHPO

MILL INTERIOR

30Fl



CH-744

WICOMICO FEED & FLOUR MILL

CHARLES CO. MD

C. HARDY

3/2002

MD SHPO

W/TH HOUSE, LOOKING SE

1/16



CH-744

WILCOMING FEED & FLOUR MILL

CHARLES CO, MD

C. HARDY

3/2002

MD SHPO

-PHOLHOUSE LOOKING # NW

501 L



CH-700

WILCOMING FEED & FLOUR MILL

CHARLES CO, MD

C. HARDY

3/2002

MD SHPO

MILLERS & ELEVATORS, FROM LANE, LOOKING W

60 FL